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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/303,356	04/29/1999	DAVID W. BACHMANN	AT9-98-955	8249

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LAW OFFICES OF
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EXAMINER

TO, BAOQUOC N

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 02/27/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/303,356

Applicant(s)

BACHMANN ET AL.

Examiner

Baoquoc N To

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

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DETAILED ACTION

1. Applicant's request for reconsideration of the finality of the rejection of the last Office action is persuasive and, therefore, the finality of that action is withdrawn. The Office regrets any inconveniences due to applicant.

2. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 9, 14, 16 and 19 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1-12 and 15-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Serbinis et al. (US. Patent No. 6,584,466 B1).

As to claims 1 and 16, Serbinis teaches
receiving a request to delete a directory entry (col. 7, lines 63-67);
responsive to receiving the request to delete a directory entry, determining to tag the directory entry for subsequent deletion by setting an attribute of the attribute of the directory entry to a predetermined value (col. 18, lines 16-25);
updating a first database table storing the attribute of the directory entry (col. 8, lines 16-18);
deleting references to the tagged directory entries throughout the set of database tables (col. 8, lines 16-18).

Serbinis does not explicitly teach periodically search for tagged directory entries in the first database table during a cleanup process interval. However, Serbinis' system needless to use the search to gather the tagged entries in order to perform the same functionalities according to the present invention because the tagged records would be deleted in the pre-determined amount of time (time expiration) (col. 8, lines 16-20). Therefore, one ordinary skill in the art would recognize the advantage of using the

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Serbinis' database management system with reduce searching step to achieve the same goal as the claimed invention.

Regarding on claim 2, teaches the directory entry is tagged by setting its creation time attribute to a given value (col. 7, lines 65-67).

Regarding on claim 3, teaches the given value is a null value (expiration time 0) (col. 7, lines 65-67).

Regarding on claims 4 and 17, Serbinis teaches performing a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query; and excluding tagged directory entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query. Serbinis' system does not need performing a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query; and excluding tagged directory entries from search results that otherwise satisfy the search query because Serbinis' system would have expiration time which would be deleted from the data storage. Moreover, the limitation as indicated above is know in the art because one of the searching's technique is to retrieve the wanted record or unwanted record but not all. That the reason why the excluding tagged directory entries from a search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, otherwise excluding tagged directory have other usages. That needs to bring into the language of the claim to clarify the novelty of the invention.

Regarding on claim 5, teaches the step of excluding tagged directory entries includes modifying an SQL query to exclude rows having a null change creation (col. 5, lines 50-61).

Regarding on claims 6, 18 and 20, Serbinis teaches the directory is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LDAP) directory service and the database tables are managed by a relational database management service (table) (col. 5, lines 50-61).

Regarding on claim 7, teaches the first database table is an entry table (col. 5, lines 50-61).

Regarding on claim 8, teaches the set of database tables includes at least one attribute table storing information about an attribute (col. 5, lines 52-58).

As to claims 9 and 19, please see the rejected reason for claim 1, in addition the limitation responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy a search query, excluding tagged directory entries from a search results that otherwise satisfy the search query was not explicitly teaches by Serbinis; however, Berbinis does not need performing the search to gather the tagged records or non-tagged record because the marked records as taught in Serbinis would have expiration time which would be deleted from the data storage. Moreover, the limitation as indicated above is know in the art because one of the searching techniques is to retrieve the wanted record or unwanted record but not all. That the reason why the excluding tagged directory entries from a search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, otherwise excluding tagged directory have other usages. That needs to bring into the language of the claim to clarify the novelty of the invention.

As to claim 10, please see claim rejection of claim 2.

As to claim 11, please see claim rejection to claim 3.

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5. Claims 13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bharwani et al. (US. Patent No. 3,670,310).

Regarding on claim 13, Bharwani teaches method for searching a database from a directory service, comprising the steps of:

Receiving a search query (reading the search file record) (col. 15, lines 17-18);

Responsive to a search for directory entries that satisfy the search query, excluding given directory entries from a search results that otherwise satisfy the search query, wherein a given directory entry is a directory entry that has been tagged for deletion by setting an attribute of the given directory entry to a predetermined values (col. 15, lines 20-24); and

Returning the search results (col. 15, lines 24-27).

Although, Bharwani does not explicitly teach excluding given directory entries from a search result that otherwise satisfy the search query; however, Bharwani teaches, "an item is deleted by reading the search file record corresponding to that item into core, setting a delete flag in the search file record to mark the item as deleted. The search record then rewritten onto the search file. In this way the data item, corresponding to the marked search record, is marked so that it will be bypass during searching. By so marking the search records, as item can be effectively deleted from a search without changing the chains associated with all keywords for that item" (col. 15, lines 18-27). This clearly indicates all the mark records are excluding from the search because they are mark for deleting. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to modify to mark the deleted records in order to exclude from the search as taught by Bharwani to allow those current records to be retrieved as the required by the user.

Regarding on claim 14, Bharwani teaches directory service is a Lightweight Directory Access Protocol (LAPD) directory service and the database tables are managed by a relational database management service (fig. 5a and 5b).

Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Baoquoc N. To whose telephone number is (703) 305-1949 or via e-mail BaoquocN.To@uspto.gov. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday: 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM, EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Breene can be reached at (703) 305-9790.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Washington, D.C. 20231.

The fax numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are as follow:

(703) 872-9306 [Official Communication]

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

Crystal Park II

2121 Crystal Drive

Arlington, VA 22202

Fourth Floor (Receptionist).

Baoquoc N. To

Feb 17, 2004



ALFORD KINDRED
PRIMARY EXAMINER